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EXAMINER

CHAPMAN, JEANETTE E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3633

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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06/23/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 and 31,33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Toti in view of Knudson

Claim 1.

Toti discloses a building panel, comprising:

(a) a curved central portion having a curved shape in cross section perpendicular to a longitudinal direction along a length of the building panel, the curved central portion having transverse corrugations therein;

(b) a pair of side wall portions extending from opposite ends of said curved central portion in cross section, said curved central portion being concave-shaped in cross section from a perspective between said side wall portions, wherein said sidewall portions comprise straight portions that extend tangentially in cross section from the concave-shaped curved central portion; but lacks the

(c) a pair of complementary wing portions extending from said side wall portions.

Knudson discloses the pair of complimentary wing portions enabling connection of various panels to form a single panel

2.

(Canceled).

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3.

Toti discloses the building panel of Claim 1, wherein said curved central portion comprises an arc.

claim 31:

Toti discloses the building panel curved in the longitudinal direction

Claim 33

Toti discloses the building panel of Claim 1, wherein the curved central portion is curved in cross section over an entire width of the curved central portion. See figure 2

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 1, 3-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson in view of Toti and Lacasse

Knudson (figure 13) discloses a building panel, comprising:

(a) a curved central portion, between 26 and 27, having transverse corrugations 57 therein;

(b) a pair of side wall portions 26 and 27 extending from opposite ends of said curved central portion, said curved central portion being concave-shaped from a perspective between said side wall portions, figure 13 wherein said sidewall portions comprise

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straight portions that extend tangentially from the concave-shaped curved central portion; and

(c) a pair of complementary wing portions 31/32 extending from said side wall portions.

Lacasse discloses a building panel (see figure 9), comprising:

(a) a curved central portion 330 having transverse corrugations therein; however,

(b) a pair of side wall portions 328 extending from opposite ends of said curved central portion, said curved central portion being concave-shaped from a perspective between said side wall portions, wherein said sidewall portions comprise straight portions that extend tangentially from the concave-shaped curved central portion; and

(c) a pair of complementary wing portions 329 extending from said side wall portions.

Lacasse discloses a building structure wherein said central portion is without a longitudinal stiffening notch; see figure 9.

See above for the disclosure of Toti.

claim 3.

Lacasse and toti discloses wherein said curved central portion comprises an arc .

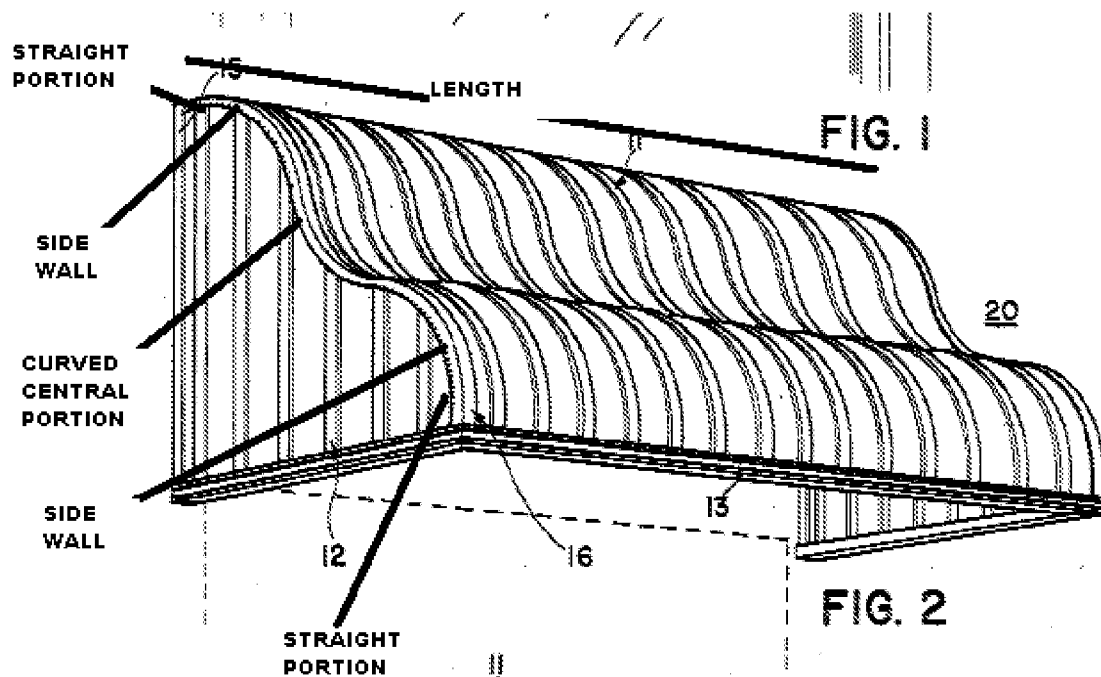
See above for the disclosure to Toti.

In view of the above: It would have been obvious to fashion the panel to have a curved shape in cross section perpendicular to a longitudinal direction along the length of the building panel and to include the arc central portion to construct a central portion that is easier to fashion as shown by the secondary references in order to easily vary the configuration of the panel.

claim 12.

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Knudson and Lacasse discloses a building panel wherein said side wall portions extend at an incline from said opposite ends of said curved central portion.



claim 4.

Knudson discloses the building panel of Claim 3, wherein said arc ranges from 15° to 130°, specifically 55-60 degrees.

claim 5.

Knudson discloses the building panel of Claim 3, wherein said arc ranges from 40° to 130°, specifically 55-60 degrees; alternatively,

claims 4-7

In column 8, the second table discloses angles between 15 and 130 degrees. The arc angles has been considered a matter of choice. One of ordinary skill in the art would have appreciated an arc angle commensurate with the intended design and function of

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the panel

claims 8-11

adding up all the radii shown in the tables of column 7 and columns 10-11 the arc has a radius ranging from 4 inches to 25 inches. The arc radius has been considered a matter of choice. One of ordinary skill in the art would have appreciated an arc radius commensurate with the intended design and function of the panel

Claim 14-15, 17-20, 28-30, 32,34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knudson in view of Toti and Lacasse and further in view of Karoubas

Claims 14-15, 17, 20, 28

Knudson discloses a building panel comprising:

(a) a curved central portion 25 having transverse corrugation therein; Karoubas discloses corrugations extending in both directions transverse and coextensive; one's reference point determines the transverse and coextensive direction. It would have been obvious to include one, either or both directions for the corrugations in order to improve stiffening or buckling of the building panel

(b) a pair of side wall portions 26,27 extending from opposite ends of said curved central portion, said curved central portion being concave-shaped from a perspective between said side wall portions, wherein said sidewall portions comprise straight portions that extend tangentially from the concave-shaped curved central portion; wherein said side wall portions extend at an incline from said opposite ends of said curved central portion.

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(c) a pair of complementary wing portions 28,29 extending from said side wall portions.

One of said wing portions comprises a hook portion 32 and the other of said wing portions comprises a hem portion 31. alternatively stated a pair of wing portions extending from said side wall portions, wherein one wing portion extends from a first of said side wall portions and the other wing portion extends from a second of said side wall portions, wherein said one wing portion from a first of said panels is connected to said other wing portion from a second of said panels. See figures 3-5 of Knudson.

See above for the claimed subject matter of Toti
claim 17

Lacasse discloses a building structure wherein said curved central portion comprises an arc.

For claims 18-19

In column 8, the second table discloses angles between 15 and 130 degrees. The arc angles has been considered a matter of choice. One of ordinary skill in the art would have appreciated an arc angle commensurate with the intended design and function of the panel

By adding up all the radii shown in the tables of column 7 and columns 10-11 the arc has a radius ranging from 4 inches to 25 inches. The arc radius has been considered a matter of choice.

One of ordinary skill in the art would have appreciated an arc radius commensurate with the intended design and function of the panel.

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More specifically, in view of the above: It would have been obvious to fashion the panel to have a curved shape in cross section perpendicular to a longitudinal direction along the length of the building panel, to include the arc central portion that is easier to fashion and to easily vary the configuration of the panel as shown by the secondary references.

Claims 29-30:

Knudson discloses a curved building structure wherein said central portion is without a longitudinal stiffening notch.

Claims 31-32:

Knudson discloses the building panel is curved in a longitudinal direction see figure 13. claim 34.

Toti discloses the building structure of Claim 15, wherein the curved central portion is curved in cross section over an entire width of the curved central portion.

Applicant's arguments are moot in view of the new ground of rejection.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chapman E. Jeanette whose telephone number is 571-272-6841. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-thursday, 8:30-6:00, every fri. off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Chilcot can be reached on 571-272-6777. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JEANETTE CHAPMAN/
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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